

22 April, 2024

Mr. Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2116

Re: In the Matter of CenterPoint Energy's Natural Gas Innovation Plan

Docket No. G-008/M-23-215

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

At the University of Minnesota, we are aware of Minnesota's Natural Gas Innovation Act and CenterPoint Energy's proposed Innovation Plan, which would make a variety of novel technologies and fuels more accessible to customers in the state. UMN is interested in CenterPoint Energy's proposed Pilot H: Carbon Capture Rebates for Commercial Buildings and recommends the Commission approve this rebate program.

We are also interested in the higher carbon capture units that are being developed and which CenterPoint Energy has proposed to evaluate through Innovation Plan R&D pilot. We urge the Commission to approve this R&D pilot to support the improvement of carbon capture or point source capture technology.

As you may imagine, the University has rather ambitious carbon reduction goals and has great interest in exploring any opportunities that would help us meet our carbon goals. Carbon capture is a proven technology that has shown a lot of promise on small scale facilities, we are anxious to test out this technology on campus and see how it will scale up to larger scale operations.

The Pilot H proposal would allow additional CenterPoint Energy non-residential customers with natural gas equipment to install carbon capture systems, converting captured CO₂ to a solid while recapturing waste heat for use on site. The units have an estimated 20-year life and could be installed on existing equipment at our commercial site(s). An incentive from CenterPoint Energy would offset a significant portion of installation costs, making this technology more feasible as a tool for emissions reductions at our operations. Additionally, the manufacturer of carbon capture systems, harvests the byproduct of the carbon capture process and shares revenue with participants, which would create added benefits for our decarbonization efforts beyond the 5-year pilot.

We are interested in using this technology to support our decarbonization goals but understand that CenterPoint has reached capacity for unit installation through their existing R&D program. We urge the Commission to approve Pilot H, so that more customers like us are able to access CenterPoint's support for this technology.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Thank you for considering the impact of this pilot's approval on our emissions reductions and economic planning.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Davis

Jeffrey Davis

Senior Director, Energy Management

University of Minnesota

From: [Jeffrey Davis](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Docket No. G-008/M-23-215
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Mr, Seuffert,

Please accept this letter of support for Centerpoint Energy's Natural Gas Innovation Plan - (Docket No. G-008/M-23-215). We at the University of Minnesota believe that carbon capture technology is going to be an important tool in future decarbonization efforts, any programs that further the understanding and development of these systems should be encouraged.

Thank you,

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Jeff Davis

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